

September 23, 1970

Professor W. G. Cochran
Department of Statistics
Harvard University
2 Divinity Avenue, Room 311
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Professor Cochran:

I was pleased to receive your letter and hope to hear from you further concerning your inquiry from Dr. Logan.

This letter is directed purely toward a remark concerning your experience on the Surgeon General's Committee. Certainly it would require a proficient staff to review the evidence that has been presented in the literature. However, I do not think that it would be sufficient to stop with that. There are a number of large data files that form the crucial bastions of evidence and that are in thorough need of critical reanalysis and review. I don't see how this can be done without the cooperation of a well-equipped computational facility. Thus, to my mind, the effort required by a possible WHO and ISI effort would have to concern itself with laying down policy and drawing final conclusions with the actual work of analysis being done under the auspices of two or more participating universities.

I thought this point was worth mentioning in view of your own remarks and hope that you will consider it.

Sincerely yours,

Theodor D. Sterling
Professor

TDS:hk

1005066090